

Application No. 10/099,827

2

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings,
of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (currently amended) A method of tracking hits for a network file
2 comprising the steps of:
3 receiving a request for said network file from a requesting
4 device;
5 sending said network file to said requesting device in response
6 to said request, said network file including an instruction to transmit an
7 indicator subsequent to said requesting device receiving said network file,
8 said instruction being embedded within said network file such that said
9 instruction is transparent to an end-user at said requesting device;
10 transmitting said indicator from said requesting device as an
11 automated [[in]] response to receiving said network file; and
12 processing said indicator to track said hits for said network file.
- 1 2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving said request includes
2 receiving said request over the global communications network referred to as
3 the Internet.
- 1 3. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of including a
2 network address of said requested network file within said indicator, so that
3 said indicator can be identified as corresponding to said requested network
4 file.
- 1 4. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of including a
2 network address of a remote processor within said instruction for navigating
3 said indicator from said requesting device over a network to said remote
4 processor, so that said indicator can be processed.

Application No. 10/099,827

3

1 5. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of executing
2 said instruction to transmit said indicator by an end-user browser at said
3 requesting device.

1 6. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of generating
2 said request for said network file at said requesting device.

1 7. (cancelled)

1 8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein processing said indicator
2 includes counting said indicator for updating a tally of said hits for said
3 network file.

1 9. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving said request for said
2 network file includes receiving said request at a proxy, said proxy having
3 cache memory to service said request when said cache memory includes a
4 cached copy of said requested network file, said cached copy having said
5 instruction for transmitting said indicator from said requesting device
6 subsequent to said requesting device receiving said cached copy.

1 10. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of providing
2 said instruction as programming that is compatible with JavaScript.

1 11. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of providing
2 said network file to include at least one of text information, image information,
3 audio information and video information.

Application No. 10/099,827

4

1 12. (previously presented) A method of counting a number of accesses for
2 cachable documents comprising the steps of:
3 embedding executable code in each of a plurality of said
4 cachable documents, said executable code including an instruction triggering
5 transmissions of count-inducing messages from client devices;
6 sending said cachable documents to said client devices in
7 response to requests for said cachable documents received from any one of a
8 plurality of said client devices;
9 receiving said count-inducing messages transmitted from said
10 client devices as responses to execution of said executable code upon
11 reception of said cachable documents; and
12 counting said accesses on a basis of receiving said
13 count-inducing messages, said counting thereby updating a tally of said
14 accesses by said plurality of client devices.

1 13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein receiving said
2 count-inducing messages includes receiving one of said count-inducing
3 messages for each said cachable document received by said client devices.

1 14. (previously presented) The method of claim 12 further comprising a step
2 of storing said cachable documents in Web proxies, said Web proxies being in
3 communication with said client devices and at least one originating server via
4 the Internet, said Web proxies being configured to store said cachable
5 documents that are downloads from said originating server.

1 15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14 further comprising a step
2 of implementing said executable code by browser software of said client
3 devices, such that said count-inducing messages are transmitted from said
4 client devices.

Application No. 10/099,827

5

1 16. (original) The method of claim 14 further comprising a step of providing a
2 Universal Resource Locator (URL) of a processor in said executable code to
3 enable transmitting of said count-inducing messages from said browser
4 software to said processor, said processor being operationally associated with
5 said originating server.

1 17. (currently amended) A system for tracking hits over the Internet
2 comprising:
3 a store of a plurality of network files, each of said network files
4 having a command to initiate a transmission of an identifier from any of a
5 plurality of client devices upon a receipt of one of said network files by said
6 client devices;
7 programming accessible via each said client device, said
8 programming being configured to request said network files and to transmit
9 said identifier upon reception of one of said network files at said client device;
10 and
11 a file access counter responsive to receiving said identifiers from
12 client devices as a basis for counting transfers of said network files to said
13 client devices, said file access counter being configured such that counting
14 [[is]] updates a tally of said transfers of said network files to said plurality of
15 client devices.

1 18. (previously presented) The system of claim 17 wherein said command
2 includes programmable code embedded within each said network file, said
3 programmable code being configured to execute said transmissions of said
4 identifiers upon said receipt of said network files by said client devices.

1 19. (original) The system of claim 18 wherein said programmable code
2 includes an Internet address of said file access counter, said network files
3 including World Wide Web pages.

1 20. (original) The system of claim 17 wherein said network files include
2 cached copies of Internet files, said store of network files being a proxy Web
3 server.